

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 05545 281028Z

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5798

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 5545

FOR THE SECRETARY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL, AND
AMBASSADOR GREENWALD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, US

SUBJ: NEW EC HEAD OF DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON

1. PER TELECON MYERSON/SPRINGSTEEN, SIR CHRISTOPHER SOAMES HAS INFORMED ME THAT THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES WISHES TO NAME JENS OTTO KRAG, FORMER PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER OF DENMARK, AS HEAD OF EC COMMISSION DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON, VICE AMBASSADOR MAZIC EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1. CHARGE HAD EARLIER TOLD SOAMES OFFICE ON BASIS DEPARTMENT ADVICE THAT INFORMAL PROCEDURE DESIRED BY EC COMMISSION FOR THIS NOTIFICATION WAS ACCEPTABLE TO US. SOAMES WISHES TO HAVE SOME INDICATION, AGAIN INFORMAL, THAT KRAG'S NOMINATION IS ACCEPTABLE TO US NOT AN AGREEMENT IN FORMAL SENSE. WE WOULD SUGGEST ORAL RESPONSE.

2. COMMISSION INFORMED MEMBER STATES OF ITS DECISION YESTERDAY MORNING. NEWS OF APPOINTMENT LEAKED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. FOR THIS REASON AND IN DEFERENCE TO DISTINGUISHED NOMINEE, MISSION STRONGLY RECOMMENDS RESPONSE BE GIVEN SOONEST, PREFERABLY TODAY SO THAT OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT CAN BE MADE. SOAMES HAS EMPHASIZED HE IS NOT PRESSING US BUT I AM SURE HE WOULD PERSONALLY APPRECIATE EARLY ACTION TO EASE ANY PROBLEM HE MAY HAVE WITH KRAG DUE TO LEAK. WE ASSUME IN ANY CASE THAT PRESIDENT ORTOLI INTENDS TO MENTION THE APPOINTMENT WHEN HE SEES THE SECRETARY.

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3. SOAMES HAS PROCEEDED CAREFULLY ON THIS MATTER, HAVING DECIDED SOME MONTHS AGO THAT HE WISHED TO REPLACE INCUMBENT. IN Krag, HE HAS FOUND A MAN OF POLITICAL STATURE IN HIS OWN RIGHT WHO WILL NOT BE HOBbled BY THE OFTEN DIFFICULT AND UNCERTAIN STATUS OF THE EC DELEGATION HEAD IN WASHINGTON. IT IS A CLEAR INDICATION, HOWEVER, OF THE COMMISSION'S DESIRE TO PRESENT ITS VIEWS MORE FORCEFULLY AND AUTHORITATIVELY BOTH TO THE US ADMINISTRATION/CONGRESS AND PUBLIC.

4. FOR LATER ACTION, BETWEEN NOW AND JANUARY, WE WOULD LIKE TO CONSULT WITH EC ABOUT EXACT WORDING OF LETTER Krag WOULD PRESENT TO SECRETARY. WE SHOULD CHECK TO SEE IF TEXT USED BY MAZIO (DAHRENDORF TO SECRETARY ROGERS) MEETS CURRENT SITUATION PARTICULARLY IF ANY CHANGE NEEDED TO MEET REQUIREMENTS OF PL 92-499 WHICH AUTHORIZED PRESIDENT TO EXTEND PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES TO MISSION OF EC COMMISSION IN WASHINGTON. THIS MATTER OF WRITTEN CREDENTIALS SHOULD NOT HOWEVER DELAY OUR INFORMAL ASSURANCE OF WELCOME TO THE COMMISSION'S NOMINEE, MR. Krag. HARTMAN

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